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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
KOJIRO KATAYAMA, ET AL.)
Application No.: 09/987,487)
Filed: November 15, 2001)
For: INFORMATION PROCESSING)
METHOD FOR MANAGING)
EQUIPMENT, EQUIPMENT)
MANAGING PROGRAM,)
RECORDING MEDIUM STORING)
EQUIPMENT MANAGING)
PROGRAM, AND EQUIPMENT)
MANAGING METHOD)

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: 2152

RECEIVED

OCT 08 2004

Technology Center 2100

October 4, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

Europe 0 930 747 A1
Europe 0 751 651 A2

PCT 98/50853
PCT 00/41059

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report, which is dated July 29, 2004, is enclosed.

It is noted that the European Search Report also cited U.S. Patent No. 5,388,252, U.S. Patent No. 5,678,002, Europe 0 921 465 A2, Europe 0 474 058 A2 and PCT 97/15009. However, these documents were previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement dated July 13, 2004, and are therefore not being cited again herein.

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of the Form PTO-1449 and returning the initialed form to Applicants with the next communication.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", is written over a horizontal line.

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